

WASHINGTON METROPOLITAN AREA TRANSIT COMMISSION

WASHINGTON, DC

ORDER NO. 8692

IN THE MATTER OF:

Served May 6, 2005

Petition of DULLES TAXI SYSTEMS,)
INC., Trading as WASHINGTON FLYER,)
for an Interstate Taxicab Fuel)
Surcharge)

Case No. MP-2005-49

Investigation of Prescription of)
an Interstate Taxicab Fuel)
Surcharge for District of)
Columbia Taxicabs)

Case No. MP-2005-50

Dulles Taxi Systems, Inc. (DTS), which operates a taxicab concession at Washington Dulles International Airport under the trade name "Washington Flyer," has petitioned the Commission for an order approving a \$1.25 fuel surcharge to be added to the base fare of each trip conducted in a DTS taxicab within the Commission's jurisdiction.

The Commission prescribes interstate taxicab rates for trips between one signatory and another where the origin and destination are both within the Metropolitan District.¹ The current interstate rates for trips in DTS taxicabs went into effect in June 2001.² According to the petition, fuel prices in the Washington Metropolitan Area have increased nearly 40 percent since then - hence the request for a surcharge.

The Commission has prescribed interstate fuel surcharges for Washington Flyer taxicabs in the past based on an average of the prevailing surcharges set by local jurisdictions that require the use of meters to calculate taxicab fares.³ The petition states that two such jurisdictions - Montgomery County, Maryland; and Alexandria, Virginia - have authorized a per-trip fuel surcharge of fifty cents

¹ Compact, tit. II, art. XI, § 18(a).

² In re Interstate Taxicab Rates, No. MP-01-23, Order No. 6226 (May 17, 2001).

³ In re Dulles Taxi Systems, Inc., t/a Washington Flyer, No. MP-01-01, Order No. 6147 (Mar. 16, 2001). This comports with the method the Commission uses to set the base interstate rates for Washington Flyer taxicabs. See Order No. 6226 (setting base rates by reference to median of local meter rates).

each and that one such jurisdiction - Arlington County, Virginia - is considering authorizing a per-trip fuel surcharge of fifty cents.⁴

We will issue public notice of this proceeding and establish a period for receiving comments. Further, in accordance with previous practice we shall initiate a companion proceeding to determine whether we should prescribe a fuel surcharge for interstate trips in District of Columbia taxicabs.⁵

THEREFORE, IT IS ORDERED:

1. That Commission staff shall cause notice of this consolidated proceeding to be published in a newspaper of general circulation in the Metropolitan District and posted to the Commission's website no later than May 11, 2005.

2. That any person desiring to comment on this proceeding may do so by filing an original and four copies of written remarks no later than May 27, 2005.

BY DIRECTION OF THE COMMISSION; COMMISSIONERS YATES AND MILLER:



William S. Morrow, Jr.
Executive Director

⁴ The petition also notes that the District of Columbia has authorized a \$1.00 per-trip fuel surcharge for District of Columbia taxicabs, but the District of Columbia fuel surcharge is tied to the District's zone-rate system and lacks any meaningful correlation to the local meter rates the Commission used in 2001 for calculating the base rate that currently applies to interstate trips in DTS taxicabs and thus is inappropriate for calculating the size of a fuel surcharge intended to offset the increase in DTS's fuel costs since 2001.

⁵ See Order No. 6147 (prescribing interstate fuel surcharge for all taxicab companies in response to petition by Dulles taxicab operator); In re Prescription of Fuel Surcharge on Interstate Taxicab Rates, No. MP-90-18, Order No. 3586 (Nov. 14, 1990) (same).